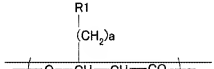
(b) Amendments to the Claims

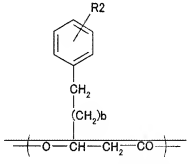
A detailed listing of the claims follows which replaces all earlier versions.

1. (Currently Amended) A structure comprising a base material characterized in that the base material is coated at least partly with a polyhydroxyalkanoate containing at least one monomer unit selected from the group consisting of those represented by one of the chemical formulae ~~[1]~~ [4] to [8]:



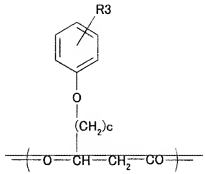
~~[1]~~

~~(wherein, the monomer unit is at least one selected from the group consisting of monomer units in which a combination of R1 and "a" is any one of combinations, wherein R1 is vinyl group; and "a" is an integer of 1 to 10);~~



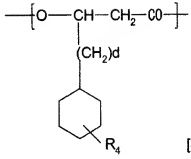
~~[2]~~

~~(wherein, "b" is an integer of 1 to 8, and R2 is one selected from the group consisting of CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, vinyl and epoxy groups, and COOR21 (R21 is H, Na or K atom), which are independently applicable to each unit when there are 2 or more units);~~



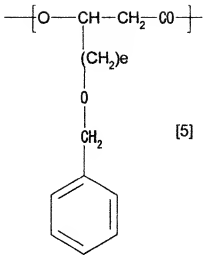
~~[3]~~

~~(wherein, "c" is an integer of 1 to 8; and R3 is one selected from the group consisting of CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7 and SCH_3 groups, which are independently applicable to each unit when there are 2 or more units);~~



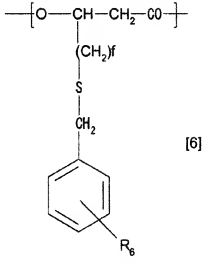
[4]

(wherein, "d" is an integer of 0 to 8; and R4 is selected from the group consisting of H and a halogen atoms, and CN, NO_2, CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, CF_3, C_2F_5 and C_3F_7 groups when "d" is 0, and selected from the group consisting of CH_3, C_2H_5 and C_3H_7 groups when "d" is 1 to 8, which are independently applicable to each unit when there are 2 or more units),



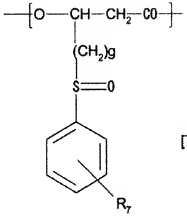
[5]

(wherein, "e" is an integer of 1 to 8),



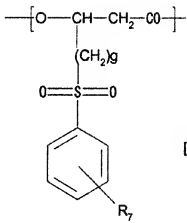
[6]

(wherein, "f" is an integer of 1 to 8; and R6 is one selected from the group consisting of CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, $(CH_3)_2$-CH and $(CH_3)_3$-C group, which are independently applicable to each unit when there are 2 or more units),



[7]

(wherein, "g" is an integer of 1 to 8; and R7 is a H or halogen atom, or CN, NO_2, COOR71 (R71 is H, Na, K, CH_3 or C_2H_5), SO_2R72 (R72 is OH, ONa, OK, a halogen atom, OCH_3 or OC_2H_5), CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, $(CH_3)_2$-CH or $(CH_3)_3$-C group, which are independently applicable to each unit when there are 2 or more units), and



[8]

(wherein, "g" is an integer of 1 to 8; and R7 is H or a halogen atom, or CN, NO_2, COOR71 (R71 is H, Na, K, CH_3 or C_2H_5), SO_2R72 (R72 is OH, ONa, OK, a halogen atom, OCH_3 or OC_2H_5), CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, $(CH_3)_2$-CH or $(CH_3)_3$-C group, which are independently applicable to each unit when there are 2 or more units).

2.-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The structure according to claim 1, wherein the base material is particulate.

9. (Original) The structure according to claim 8, wherein the base material contains a colorant.

10. (Original) A toner which contains the structure according to claim 8.

11. (Original) The structure according to claim 1, wherein the base material is in the form of flat plate or film.

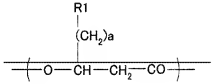
12. (Original) The structure according to claim 1, wherein the monomer unit composition in the polyhydroxyalkanoate varies from the structure inside towards the outside of the structure.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Withdrawn) A method for forming an image by supplying the toner according to claim 10 onto a recording medium.

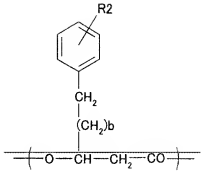
15. (Withdrawn) A device for forming an image by supplying the toner according to claim 10 onto a recording medium.

16. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method for producing a structure having a base material coated with a polyhydroxyalkanoate at least partly, comprising the steps of immobilizing an polyhydroxyalkanoate synthetase on the surface of the base material; and polymerizing a 3-hydroxyacyl coenzyme A selected from the group consisting of those represented by one of the chemical formulae ~~[9]~~, [12] to [15] with the aid of the polyhydroxyalkanoate synthetase to synthesize the polyhydroxyalkanoate comprised of a monomer unit selected from the group consisting of those represented by one of the chemical formulae ~~[1]~~, [4] to [8]:



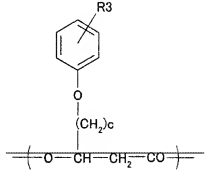
~~[1]~~

~~(wherein, the monomer unit is at least one selected from the group consisting of monomer units in which a combination of R1 and "a" is any one of combinations, wherein R1 is vinyl group, and "a" is an integer of 1 to 10);~~



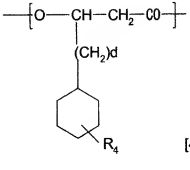
[2]

(wherein, "b" is an integer of 1 to 8, and R2 is one selected from the group consisting of CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, vinyl and epoxy groups, and COOR21 (R21 is H, Na or K atom), which are independently applicable to each unit when there are 2 or more units);



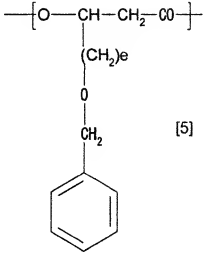
[3]

(wherein, "c" is an integer of 1 to 8, and R3 is one selected from the group consisting of CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, or SCH_3 groups, which are independently applicable to each unit when there are 2 or more units);



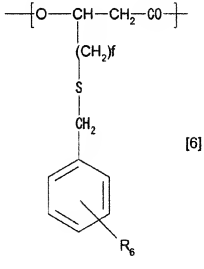
[4]

(wherein, "d" is an integer of 0 to 8; and R4 is selected from the group consisting of H and halogen atoms, and CN, NO_2, CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, CF_3, C_2F_5 and C_3F_7 groups when "d" is 0, and selected from the group consisting of CH_3, C_2H_5 and C_3H_7 groups when "d" is 1 to 8, which are independently applicable to each unit when there are 2 or more units),



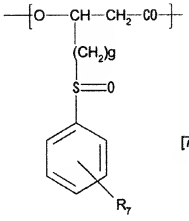
[5]

(wherein, "e" is an integer of 1 to 8),



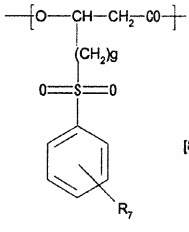
[6]

(wherein, "f" is an integer of 1 to 8; and R6 is one selected from the group consisting of CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, $(CH_3)_2$-CH and $(CH_3)_3$-C groups, which are independently applicable to each unit when there are 2 or more units),



[7]

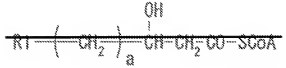
(wherein, "g" is an integer of 1 to 8; and R7 is H or halogen atom, or CN, NO_2, COOR71 (R71 is H, Na, K, CH_3 or C_2H_5), SO_2R72 (R72 is OH, ONa, OK, halogen atom, OCH_3 or OC_2H_5), CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, $(CH_3)_2$-CH or $(CH_3)_3$-C group, which are independently applicable to each unit when there are 2 or more units),



[8]

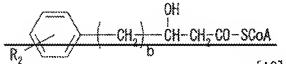
(wherein, "g" is an integer of 1 to 8; and R7 is H or halogen atom, or CN, NO_2, COOR71 (R71 is H, Na, K, CH_3 or C_2H_5), SO_2R72 (R72 is OH, ONa, OK, halogen atom, OCH_3 or OC_2H_5), CH_3,

C_2H_5, C_3H_7, $(CH_3)_2$-CH or $(CH_3)_3$-C group, which are independently applicable to each unit when there are 2 or more units),



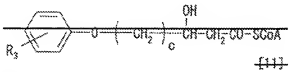
[9]

(wherein, -SCoA is a coenzyme A bound to an alkanoic acid; "a" is an integer of 1 to 10; corresponding to "a" in the monomer unit represented by the formula [1]; and R1 is vinyl group);



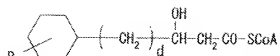
[10]

(wherein, -SCoA is a coenzyme A bound to an alkanoic acid; "b" is an integer of 1 to 8; corresponding to "b" in the monomer unit represented by the formula [2]; and R2 is one selected from the group consisting of CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7 and vinyl groups, corresponding to R2 in the monomer unit represented by the formula [2];



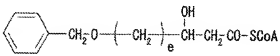
[11]

(wherein, -SCoA is a coenzyme A bound to an alkanoic acid; "c" is an integer of 1 to 8; corresponding to "c" in the monomer unit represented by the formula [3]; and R3 is one selected from the group consisting of CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7 and SCH_3 groups, corresponding to R3 in the monomer unit represented by the formula [3];



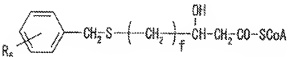
[12]

(wherein, -SCoA is a coenzyme A bound to an alkanoic acid; "d" is an integer of 0 to 8, corresponding to "d" in the monomer unit represented by the formula [4]; and R4 is from the group consisting of H and halogen atoms, and CN, NO_2, CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, CF_3, C_2F_5 and C_3F_7 groups when "d" is 0, and one selected from the group consisting of CH_3, C_2H_5 and C_3H_7 groups when "d" is 1 to 8, corresponding to R4 in the monomer unit represented by the formula [4],



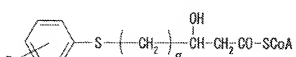
[13]

(wherein, -SCoA is a coenzyme A bound to an alkanoic acid; "e" is an integer of 1 to 8, corresponding to "e" in the monomer unit represented by the formula [5],



[14]

(wherein, -SCoA is a coenzyme A bound to an alkanoic acid; "f" is an integer of 1 to 8, corresponding to "f" in the monomer unit represented by the formula [6]; and R6 is one selected from the group consisting of CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, $(CH_3)_2$-CH and $(CH_3)_3$-C group, corresponding to R6 in the monomer unit represented by the formula [6], and



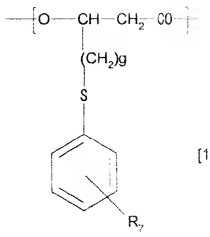
[15]

(wherein, -SCoA is a coenzyme A bound to an alkanoic acid; "g" is an integer of 1 to 8, corresponding to "g" in the monomer unit represented by one of the formulae [7] and [8]; and R7 is one selected from the group consisting of H and halogen atoms, and CN, NO_2, COOR71 (R71 is H, Na, K, CH_3 or C_2H_5), SO_2R72 (R72 is OH, ONa, OK, a halogen atom, OCH_3 or OC_2H_5), CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, $(CH_3)_2$-CH and $(CH_3)_3$-C groups, corresponding to R7 in the monomer unit represented by formulae [7] and [8].

17. (Withdrawn) The method for producing a structure according to claim 16, wherein the monomer unit of polyhydroxyalkanoate coating the base material is oxidized into a monomer unit of different species.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Withdrawn) The method for producing a structure according to claim 17, wherein the monomer unit to be oxidized is represented by the formula [16], and the monomer unit of different species is represented by one of the formulae [7] and [8]:



[16]

(wherein, "g" is an integer of 1 to 8; and R7 is H or halogen atom, or CN, NO_2, COOR71 (R71 is H, Na, K, CH_3 or C_2H_5), SO_2R72 (R72 is OH, ONa, OK, a halogen atom, OCH_3 or OC_2H_5), CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, $(CH_3)_2$-CH or $(CH_3)_3$-C group, which are independently applicable to each unit when there are 2 or more units).

20.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The method for producing a structure according to one of claims ~~16 to 19~~ 16, 17 or 19, wherein composition of the 3-hydroxyacyl coenzyme A is varied with time to vary the monomer unit composition in the polyhydroxyalkanoate from the inside towards the outside of the structure.

23. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method for producing a toner comprising the step of producing the particulate structure according to one of claims ~~16 to 19~~ 16, 17 or 19.